GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:143
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
LOCAL LANGUAGE TV CHANNELS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of requirements for applying to start local language television channels;

(b) the number of applications received from the companies to start new television channels in various languages including Malayalam and Kannada separately during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the details of the channels given licenses by the Government and applications still pending, language-wise;

(d) the reasons for not granting licenses to those applicants; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING, ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) The permission to operate a satellite TV Channel is given by the Ministry under the Policy Guidelines for Uplinking/Downlinking of Television Channels in India 2011. The companies are free to air the content in any Indian language.

(b) The number of applications received during the last 3 years and current year for new channels in various languages was 200 out of which, applications which included languages of Malayalam and Kannada were 105.

(c) to (e) The Ministry has given permission to 795 TV channels to uplink from and downlink into India under News as well as Non-News categories, a list of which is available at Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in. Presently, 235 applications are pending for inter-ministerial clearances. The Ministry coordinates with various Ministries and follows up pending cases regularly to expedite clearances.